

Bulletin

COUNTRY LIVING in Queanbeyan and Palerang

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QUEANBEYAN MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL



Watch our moves!

Queanbeyan Public School
and others perform at the
festival p3

PHOTO: ROBYN HALL

Breaking into acting late, *Winners and Losers* star Mike Smith has never looked back – And his return to Queanbeyan last year was a triumph

He recently sat down with **Nichole Smith** (no relation, unfortunately, she says) and told us how it all happened.

IT'S NOT often you hear of actors getting their big break later in life, but Queanbeyan's Mike Smith says the concern he had left his run too late was never going to stand in his way.

Having begun his acting career proper at a relatively mature age, Smith is now a regular on the popular Prime TV series *Winners & Losers*, currently in its third season.

For a boy who spent more of his time on the local footie field than the stage, the lure of the glittering lights was realised a little later than for most aspiring actors. In the absence of any family precedent, in

2002 at the age of 29 while working as an IT consultant, he made the bold move to be one of 2,500 hopefuls to apply for a place with the illustrious and exclusive National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA).

"A close friend, director and now mentor of mine, Rodney Delaney, gave me the encouragement and push to give it a go," he says of his life-altering decision.

Emerging from same ranks as Cate and Mel

"I didn't have much of a clue as to what they [NIDA] were looking for. All I knew was there were only 22 places to fill. Age was my main concern, but I think it was



just an excuse to hide the fear of possible failure. I just applied myself to it 100 per cent and took that leap of faith."

Three years later the talented thespian emerged with a Bachelor of Dramatic Art from the institution renowned for producing only 164 graduates per year, amongst them the likes of Mel Gibson and Cate Blanchett.

"It's like any career path or passion you follow. Sometimes it's just there inside you and sometimes it grows on you. With acting I found a freedom and excitement like nothing I'd done before. It's an extraordinary feeling."

Early on it had been appearances in local productions such as *Singin' in the Rain* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* that saw the acting bug take hold. After his graduation, Smith continued in theatre, landing parts in *The King and I*, and *Billy Elliot* in which he played the titular character's elder brother, Tony, earning a Green Room

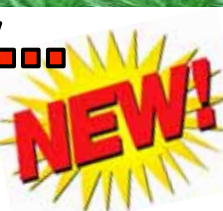
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Queanbeyan's diversity...

The 2014 multicultural festival drew people from many lands and local communities with Nepal (dancers centre), and African dancers performing for the first time. There was also music, dance and food from South America, the Cook Islands, Samoa, Mexico, Spain Hungary, Macedonia and Turkey, not listing all! A good time under the trees in Queanbeyan Park.



COVER: Queanbeyan Public School students combined traditional Aboriginal dance moves and modern dance. Pictured are Lachlan Pinner-Gare, Izayah Boyd, Tremaine Boyd, Kai Beetson with Shireen Brennan (in the background).

PHOTOS: ROBYN HALL

Weereewa the lake known as George Science history in our midst, we just have to read it

In time with the Weereewa cultural festival, **Ben Latham** recaps why the lake is such a treasure store for scientists who continue to plumb its depths.

IN 1963, Lake Burley Griffin was empty but Lake George was full and thriving. Canberra geologist Brad Pillans fondly recalls childhood days spent out on Lake George, a popular hotspot for water sports and endless summer fun back in the day.

"On a bright sunny day the lake was blue and wonderful. I couldn't think of anything more enjoyable than Sunday afternoons, after church, taking the boat out to Lake George with a picnic lunch and playing in the water until it got too cold and we had to go home."

Fifty years later and a lot has changed. Lake George is now all but dry, the Canberra Yacht club has relocated to Lake Burley Griffin, and the Pillans family boat was sold long ago. But could the lake be full again one day?

Scientific research indicates that the amount of water in the lake is largely a balance between rainfall and evaporation. If the climate were to shift and reduce evaporation or a series of above-average rainfall years were to occur, as there was in the 1950s and 60s, the lake would certainly fill up.

Once it was 40 metres deep

In historical times, Lake George has only been up to several metres deep, as it was in the 1820s when first sighted by Europeans. But there have been times in the geological past, including around 30,000 years ago, when the lake reached a depth of almost 40 metres, enough to completely flood Bungendore.

Although this would require a significant shift in climate, a run of wet years could see the lake return to levels seen in the 1950s and 60s.

Researchers studying the lake primarily focus on sediment cores, drilling into the floor of the lake much like farmers drilling a bore. And just as a lake is a reservoir



Waterskiing and picnics: Weereewa in the 1960s was the water sport magnet for Canberra and surrounds. Seen here, Brad Pillans' mother Ruth (left), an avid waterskier, with family friends Earle and Elaine Chapman.

of water, it is also a sediment trap.

But while the water may come and go, soil carried by run-off accumulates in the basin and settles into sedimentary layers. These layers preserve clues about the landscape's history that can be reconstructed like a jigsaw; the deeper the layer, the older the history.

Scientific research done in the 1970's and 80s showed that the sediment beneath Lake George is up to 165 metres deep, holding an estimated several million years of information about the lake's past life.

The information includes pollen preserved by the lake sediment that can be microscopically examined to identify its plant of origin, allowing inferences to be made about the lake's past climate and vegetation.

Plants that now grow on the coast were present at Lake George in the distant past. Even microscopic animals can be found in the sediment, elucidating much about whether the water at the time was saline or fresh.

Although dry for the time being, the secrets and mysteries of Lake George will be uncovered piece by piece beneath its surface, telling stories of a past lake worlds apart from the one we know today, a lake that will perhaps see waterskiers and speedboats return to its shores once more. ■

Sediment research, including climate change research, is ongoing.

Meanwhile if readers want to send the Bulletin anecdotes of their Lake George experiences we will be glad to consider publishing them.

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Some things never go out of style

TUCKED halfway down Cassidy's Arcade in Queanbeyan is a small barber shop.

This is no fashionable salon. It doesn't have the fancy spas, high-tech dryers, or gossiping hairdressers that a bigger hair salon might have. No, this is a traditional barber's shop; welcoming, friendly, and strictly dealing with men's hair only.

Jason Tutalo is a third-generation barber and the new owner of Tony's Hairdressing Salon. Jason and his brother David ran the salon together for many years, but now Jason is the sole owner.

"There's a lot of history, it's in the blood I suppose," Jason said. "I've recently taken over the business in August, by myself. I had my brother working here, but he decided to open another shop, so I kept this one and bought him out."

That history began when Michele Tutalo emigrated from Italy in 1950. He got a job as a barber in the shop at Old Parliament House, which served the members of parlia-



ment and their assistants, and even cut the hair of then Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies.

Michele's son Antonio followed his father into the barbering trade, and in the 1960s it was he who made the move into Crawford St in Queanbeyan, opening Tony's Hairdressing Salon.

Jason began his hairdressing apprenticeship in 1989, learning from his father in the family's shop with a four year apprentice-

by Karen Lovatt

ship. During his apprenticeship years, Jason often participated in hairdressing competitions, coming away with an impressive collection of trophies.

"I did a few hairdressing competitions, I was pretty good I suppose, and won a few trophies," Jason admitted. "But I'm a bit over it now, it's good when you're doing your apprenticeship and learning."

Overcoming a tough year

The last year has been a rough time. Jason was diagnosed with bowel cancer and had to undergo a surgery known as a peritonectomy. The procedure took sixteen hours and the stretched-out position of his hands during that time caused nerve damage – in the worst possible place for a hairdresser.

"I couldn't lift my wrists up at all," Jason explained. "I couldn't work for 11 months, it was really bad. I couldn't use my hands, but they finally came good. I thought they'd never come back, but they did. Nerves take ages to fix."

But the battle isn't over. His doctors recently discovered that there was more cancer, and he has been in hospital for the last month, having another operation. "They found more cancer and they had to remove it all again," Jason explained. "Hopefully this is the last time."

In spite of the setbacks, Jason isn't slowing down. He says that traditional barber-shops will continue to have a place in the world and thinks that their simplicity compared to other salon types contributes to that.

"Men prefer to go to barbers more than a unisex salon, I think," Jason said. "They prefer the barbering techniques, and cut. The haircut's like fifteen, twenty minutes and you're out of here, so I think they like that. It's much faster than going to a salon. We don't take appointments or anything, it's just walk in, get your hair cut, and walk out again."

Jason has built up a repeat business of satisfied customers. "People come from years and years ago, they still come from when my father cut their hair." He has even followed in his grandfather's footsteps with politicians and gave the Mayor of Queanbeyan his Christmas trim. ■

— ENVIRONMENT —

Climate risk? Who cares? We're going after bad renewable energy

IN THIS global village, does Australian politics thrive in its very own bubble?

Apparently so. In the same February week that the US Secretary of State gave a major climate change address in Indonesia, the Abbott government appointed two climate change contrarians to review Australia's 20 percent Renewable Energy Target (RET).

The RET was started under the Howard government and has proven successful in ensuring Australia's energy supply is not 100 percent based on greenhouse gas-producing fossil fuels. It has fostered innovation and investment in Australia and opened doors to new jobs.

Rooftop solar has proven so popular with consumers that Australia is now a world leader on that front. (However, most of the upswing has been due to falling solar panel prices, not government incentives).

Toeing the party line, the Liberal Party Member for Hume Angus Taylor (who represents parts of western Palerang) raised the fear that renewable energy is bumping up electricity prices – a handy bogeyman in the footsteps of a successful but untrue Coalition campaign to blame the carbon price for rising electricity prices (see box below). He also played up the divisions in the electorate about wind power.

On the climate frontline here

Secretary of State Kerry told the Indonesians that man-made global warming and climate change are 'weapons of mass destruction' and that "this city (Jakarta), this country, this region" are in the front line of climate change. "It's not an exaggeration to say to you that your entire way of life is at risk" he said according to a February 18 Reuters report.

Kerry also reportedly said that those who do not accept the evidence that human activity causes global warming are "shoddy scientists" and "extreme ideologues" and said big companies and special interests should not hijack the debate.

Switch back to nearby Australia. Close on the heels of climate change denier and financier Maurice Newman being appointed chairman of the Prime Minister's Business Advisory Council, the government has appointed 'sceptic' businessman Dick Warburton to head a review panel tasked with a new brief: deciding whether the RET has been "too successful" for the standard electricity market and is hurting its pricing.

Also on the panel is Brian Fisher who, while heading the federal Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics in the 1990s, was a reliable voice finding that the costs of climate change action were too steep for Australia's economy. ■

Dear Editor ...



Feed went with heat and evaporation, 2030 weather here already?

AS IF last year's summer was not bad enough, we have had to endure almost constant heatwaves through this summer with very little rainfall to compensate for increased evaporation. Farmers and other residents have had to spend valuable time and effort fighting bushfires, notably the Murrumbucca fire north of Cooma.

Stock animals have been lost to fire, or sold off too quickly as water and feed have diminished. Native animals have also been affected. In south-east Queensland at least 45,500 flying foxes died on just one extremely hot day.

This is what climate scientists have warned would happen: more frequent and intense heatwaves and other extreme weather events; higher temperatures, and, at least in southern Australia, generally drier conditions. And climate change is coming very rapidly. Climate Council member Will Steffen said only last week that the weather we are now experiencing is what we were warned to expect for 2030.

It is now beyond any doubt that climate change is largely man-made. Volcanoes and sun-spots have an effect too, but it is greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels, along with deforestation, that is the overwhelming driving force.

Three years ago Climate Action Monaro was formed primarily to educate the public and decision-makers about the science of climate change, and secondarily to help develop policies that would both mitigate climate change and help adapt to it.

Every week, Climate Action Monaro issues an email bulletin to anyone interested that informs them of the issues concerning climate change. Every six months, we hold a public meeting. The next is in Cooma on March 29 on the need to divest from fossil fuels.

Your readers are more than welcome to receive these weekly bulletins, whether or not they perceive themselves to be part of the Monaro or not! All they need do is send an email to me at jenny.goldie@optusnet.com.au asking to be put on the list.

— Jenny Goldie, President Climate Action Monaro, Michelago

Electricity price rises *not* due to green schemes

A NEW study has confirmed (again) that the carbon price and RET have had little to do with overall rising electricity prices. On the other hand, reports in federal parliament have documented that during the carbon prices' brief tenure, greenhouse gas emissions did fall as intended with this market mechanism.

Canberra Times business reporter Michael West wrote on February 24: "If Tony Abbott truly wants to achieve lower power prices ... he could start by recognising that it is not the carbon tax or renewable energy costs that are primarily responsible for energy price hikes.

"The culprit is network costs..." and he goes on to blame state governments and an inscrutable pricing regulatory system that reimburses spending on infrastructure. [With a rising population and aging infrastructure, this is another complex conversation – Ed.]

What West calls mythmaking by the Liberal Party and the Murdoch press is challenged by a new pricing study from Queensland University. It shows that in NSW about 7c/kWh of the price rise between 2007 and 2013 is due to network costs (doubling them during that period). Retail costs also doubled in the same timeframe to between 2c and 3c/kWh.

In comparison, total 'green' schemes (RET, carbon price, solar buyback schemes) were found to account for "well under 3c/kWh." ■

Challenges and solutions for wildlife habitat – Community workshops

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Queanbeyan hospital: what was that doctors' pay dispute? And other cross border issues

IT WAS a real concern to see the recent dispute with surgeons at Queanbeyan hospital which caused the cancellation of a number of surgical lists. The dispute has been resolved (surgeons retained their old contracts), but it highlighted that Queanbeyan hospital is (and is designed to be) different to many other country hospitals.

As former local Member, the commitment to, and delivery of, the new Queanbeyan hospital, and the full funding for the dialysis unit, remain among my proudest achievements. It's a hospital we can all be proud of and have confidence in seeking treatment at.

When we designed the new hospital it was deliberately built with bigger operating theatres and more beds so that we could undertake 'flow reversal', which is, bringing surgery currently being done in Canberra over to Queanbeyan. The idea was to improve waiting times in our region by taking some of the load off the Canberra hospitals and also bring revenue into the Queanbeyan hospital.

The second thing we did with the new hospital was to move the emergency department to a situation where it aimed to have a doctor on the premises 24-hours-a-day. Prior to that, we relied on local GPs to be on call. Given their busy lives and the workload it was increasingly difficult to get doctors in only when needed.

I knew that getting more surgery at Queanbeyan would take a bit of time, we needed to negotiate with the ACT and with

the surgeons to have common arrangements across the border.

Canberra-Queanbeyan unique staffing issues

We'd all like to think that the border is just a line on a map and that it shouldn't make any difference to the delivery of health services.

Unfortunately it does and it makes the arrangements between Queanbeyan and Canberra unique.

The recent dispute with surgeons is a prime example. It is a case where the NSW Government tried to apply a

state-wide rule to Queanbeyan. Because some of these surgeons lived in Canberra (ie interstate) they were deemed to be ineligible for a particular rural contract.

It was an odd situation because a surgeon with the same skill who lived 10km from Bathurst hospital, for example, might have ended up being paid more than one of these surgeons who lives 10km from Queanbeyan hospital – just because there is an ACT border and a Canberra hospital.

Fortunately that issue has now been resolved. However the challenge of the border is one that goes on.

Readers might remember that the National Party won election in Monaro holding out a promise to 'fix' the Queanbeyan hospital. They didn't specify what, at the brand new hospital, needed to be fixed, but one assumes they meant the flow reversal arrangements and ensuring the emergency department never had unfilled shifts.

NSW Capital Watch



with
Steve
Whan

National Party view of renewable energy and windfarms

THE National Party Member for Monaro, John Barilaro, has released a statement of support for the federal government's review of the renewable energy target (RET), focusing on an alleged link to rising energy prices.

This is further linked to wind farms, with Barilaro saying he is against them on principal and, generalising from local concern about the Jupiter Wind Farm proposal to suggest that communities don't support wind farms as a concept.

The statement says he is calling on the NSW Government to put a moratorium on wind farm developments until the federal RET review is completed.

"As a principle I am opposed to new wind farm developments. Federal government subsidies make the financial viability of these proposals artificially inflated and I am strongly opposed to tax payer funds being used to unnaturally prop up projects that lack community support and have questionable environmental benefits.

"I note that the new Federal Government has hinted at a potential decrease in subsidies for new renewable energy investments as a result of this review. It would therefore be wise to place on hold all pending wind farm applications."

See also: Electricity price rises not due to green schemes p4

In the three years since, we still don't have our operating theatres being used to capacity to meet our 'flow reversal' objectives. As I understand it the work is still continuing (though it does not appear to have been speeded up by the appointment of a 'cross border commissioner').

Labor was able to arrange for a doctor full time in the emergency department. The question is what has the present government done since? Well surprise, their focus on cost cutting has not resulted in better service.

The O'Farrell Government has cut health funding significantly from the levels projected prior to the last state election and it has tried to cap pay rises for our hard working nurses.

I acknowledge that there will be unavoidable occasions where a doctor's shift can't be filled.

But now, far too frequently, we see the Queanbeyan emergency department without a doctor and patients automatically sent to Canberra. This issue was the core of the Nationals' political point scoring at the last election, but it's clear there hasn't been much 'fixing' – just increased secrecy.

One good thing that hasn't changed is the amazing dedication and commitment of the staff at Queanbeyan hospital. Their dedication makes the hospital a place we can all have confidence in, despite the pressures of a focus on cost cutting and a refusal to negotiate on nursing workloads. ■

The Bulletin asked the office of John Barilaro, Member for Monaro, for a response outlining the government's improvements to Queanbeyan hospital during the past three years, but the office declined to comment.

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— PROPERTY — Summerfield: over-55 retirement village for Braidwood



Developers Peter and Trish Wallace of Habitat Realty (seen here), together with Ray White Braidwood, have begun selling 70 single storey villa homes and apartments, all with freehold title and no exit fees.

The village, with recreational facilities, is situated on eight acres of gently-sloping land with rural outlooks, which will never be built out. It is a short walk to the Braidwood hospital, aged care and other community health services which the developers consider a major plus.

Peter Wallace believes baby boomers might want to consider escaping to Summerfield when they are fairly young so that they can live in "very affordable, up-market accommodation, and be free to maintain their level of fitness and travel the world".

The April edition of *The District Bulletin* will have more.

Braidwood's best kept secret: abundant community health services

FIRST, here is a little success story to illustrate the results of the hard work and innovative thought that has ensured comprehensive health services in the small country town of Braidwood.

At the beginning of 2013 a friend entered a city hospital to have an operation which was described as "a breeze" and "a piece of cake". She expected to be home about two or three days after the procedure.

Seven months later my friend was transferred to the Braidwood Hospital and the Multi-Purpose Health Service (MPS). Bed rest and the improvement of mobility followed as the MPS swung into action to assess my friend's readiness to return to her home 15kms outside Braidwood.

Following community health assessment, and before release from hospital, the Transitional Aged Care Supervisor drove the patient to her home to assess the suitability of the domestic situation. Loose floor coverings were removed and aids for showering and an adjustable chair were installed, together with the provision of a traymobile to assist the carrying of wood for heating.

Finally home following discussion with a dietician, the recovering patient received twice-weekly visits from community health nurses and a home help service to deliver grocery shopping and to do housework. In addition a physio and speech therapist paid a weekly visit.

Twelve months from operation day, my friend is now driving her car and able to return to her business.

The MPS has a doctor on call at all times and an Accident and Emergency Service. Acute care beds, childhood immunisation clinic, a diabetes educator, pathology, podiatrist, ultrasound, and limited x-ray services are available. Also a primary health 'well' clinic, women's health clinic, welfare, social activities – linked to home and community care, some psychology

services and more.

The Braidwood Medical Centre is on the MPS campus together with Narbethong, the 16 bed hostel for the frail aged. The hospital building accommodates a ten bed nursing home.

A full list of all available services can be found on pages 6–9 in the *Braidwood and Villages 2013–2014 Community Directory* including independent health services such as the long-established pharmacy. The Wilson Street Medical Surgery and the Duncan Street Dental Surgery are the most recent and welcome additions.

Braidwood ROUNDS



with
Jill
McLeod

If there is a need to close the circle by adding convenient access to services, especially for the over 55s, the new Summerfield home concept fits the bill. Level wheelchair-friendly paths will link Summerfield to the MPS and town together with a 24-hour emergency call system.

THE MPS model for rural and remote area health services has been coming together in Braidwood since 1992, jointly supported by state and Commonwealth funds. It has also attracted allied private services such as the dentist and other practitioners to the village. The MPS services primarily the 2622 postcode from past Araluen, to Nerriga, to Boro ending somewhere near the Goulburn Road. However clinics such as child immunisation and wellness can be accessed by anyone in the region. See above for more information. ■

— EYE ON SPORT —

Golf riches

GOLFER or no, you might be surprised to learn that Royal Queanbeyan once played host to not only Greg 'The Shark' Norman, but also golfing legend Kel Nagle, who won a professional tournament every year between 1949 and 1975. Even better, Nagle's grandson Jake is the current Club Pro in Queanbeyan and happy to give you a hand to help improve your swing – although you've just missed the chance to take home a pay packet similar to the professionals.

The Queanbeyan Golf Club had \$20,000 up for grabs during the Pro Am they staged on 4 March. All you had to do was hit a hole-in-one on the eighth. How hard could it be? Well, no one managed to pull it off, but if you've never picked up a stick, bat or club in your life, might be the time to start and get into practice for the next major offering.

Soccer comps

AS TO BE expected, the Mayor's Cup for the round-ball game was fiercely contested between Monaro and Queanbeyan City with the former taking out the day on all three counts – Masters, Women's and Men's.

Unfortunately, with the biggest crowds Seiffert Oval has seen in years participating in the previous week's Relay for Life, plus the heavy rains, the surface was somewhat below par compared to, say, the pitch upon which the hallowed FA Cup is fought out. Then again, some of the unkind might suggest so were some of the Masters players.

And the others

LAWN bowls might not be one of those sports that immediately leap to mind when thinking of outdoor pursuits but competitions are progressing quite nicely for the two local clubs, with grades from one to six currently on offer. Men's, women's, twilight, mixed – seems there's something for everyone, even those who think they're the antithesis of Sporty Spice.

Softball and cricket are coming to a conclusion with one of the most notable events of the summer taking place at the game between the Futures Leagues ACT Comets vs Western Australia at the end of February with Queanbeyan's Vele Dukoski taking an extraordinary six wickets for only 41 runs, including a highly elusive hat-trick.

Gearing up now for the netball, hockey and football season but if the idea of braving sub-zero temperatures doesn't appeal, you can always frequent the Queanbeyan Indoor Sports Centre to play or watch instead! ■

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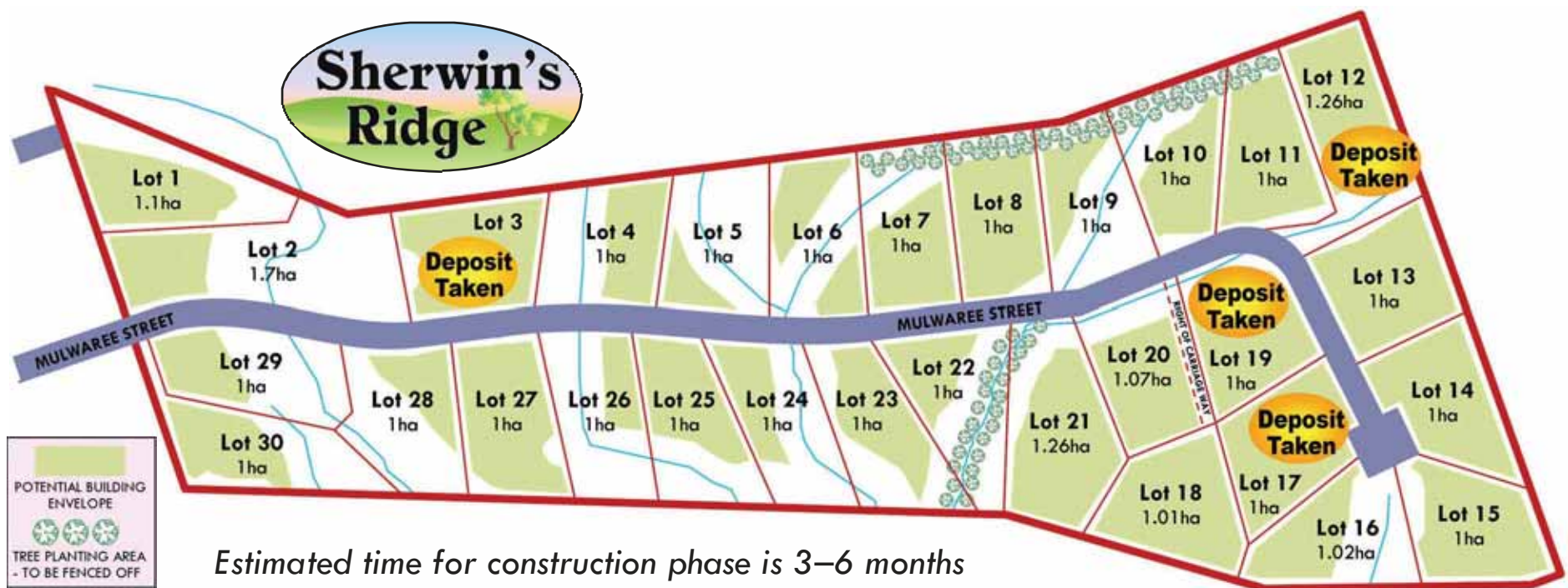
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Ice climbing: good way to nurture your inner tough guy

as our reporter **Karen Lovatt** found on a recent trip to New Zealand

THERE are some moments in life when you look at the task before you and think, “why did I think this was such a good idea?” That was my precise line of thinking by the time I was partway up the Fox Glacier in New Zealand.

It had not been my thinking when I arrived at the guide company at 8am that morning, excited and ready for anything. New Zealand was my first overseas holiday, and our ice-climbing expedition was to be the highlight of that trip.

With specialist gear loaded, we were taken by bus to the glacier carpark. After a pleasant half-hour’s walk down the glacier valley – first through rainforests, then barren dry rocks – we arrived at what was known as the terminal face: the very front edge of the glacier.

And then, our crampons on, helmets on, and picks at the ready, we began hiking over the ice.

After about an hour’s walking – climbing, really – I had my moment: why

had I ever thought this was a great idea? When the guiding website says the ice-climbing adventure needs a “good level of fitness”, they weren’t joking. I had made a terrible under-estimation of the difficulty of the adventure and a dramatic over-estimation of my own fitness level.

Thanks partly to the guides, and partly to my dear friend who was with me, I had another moment – this one of determination. I was not going to ruin my trip; I was not going to let the ice win. It was worth it a thousand times over.

Like rock climbing only more so

Ice-climbing is like rock-climbing, which I had done a lot of when younger, except

there are no pre-made handholds and turning your foot in any other direction than toes-in is a really bad idea. The guides had already climbed up the walls and set up ropes over the walls we would climb.

We started with a low-level exercise to learn the basics; the gentle swing of the lower leg to stick your toes in the wall; the gentle swing of the upper arm and loose wrist needed to stick the pick in properly. When the guides were satisfied we weren’t going to fall off – well, at least not right away – we were allowed to pair up and start the real climbing.

The actual climbing was hard work, but very thrilling. It was a challenge to look at the ice wall in front of you and work out

Continued p15

The Gross National Happiness Index

Political scientist and co-owner of Miss Ruby’s Bookshop in Braidwood, **Robin Tennant-Wood**, teaches public policy in Bhutan from time to time as part of the University of Canberra’s offshore teaching program. Here she tells us a little about what Bhutan can teach us.

ECONOMISTS and governments are always very keen to tell us that the country’s GNP, or Gross National Product, is the only way of measuring the total wealth of the country. While this is an internationally acknowledged means of economic measurement, it is not without its critics or its flaws.

The GNP measures the sum of all economic transactions, meaning that even transactions that have a negative social or environmental outcome are economically positive.

An oil spill, for example, is great for a nation’s GNP as it stimulates economic activity in the form of salvage and clean-up, insurance, environmental restoration, legal cases and so forth. Its negative impact on the environment or the social well-being of affected communities is not taken into account in GNP.

GNP per capita only measures money and it only measures on the positive side of the balance sheet.

What if there was a better way to measure a country’s total wealth?

In 1974, the 4th King of Bhutan acceded

“If the government cannot create happiness for its people, there is no purpose for the government to exist.”

to the throne of the tiny Himalayan kingdom and set as the objectives for his reign the democratisation of the country and the implementation of Gross National Happiness, GNH, as a means of measuring the country’s total well-being.

The concept dates back to the 1729 legal code developed at the unification of the nation of Bhutan which states: “if the Government cannot create happiness for its people, there is no purpose for the Government to exist”.

In 2008, with Bhutan’s first democratic elections, King Jigme Singye Wangchuck’s vision was complete as the concept of GNH was absorbed into the legislative process of the new democratic government.

The Gross National Happiness index is measured against nine criteria. These are: psychological wellbeing; health; time use; education; cultural diversity and resilience; good governance; community vitality; ecological diversity and resilience; and



The rapidly developing town of Paro, flanked by rice fields. Inset: Some of Robin’s Bhutanese students.

living standard.

Calculating GNH per capita is a complicated calculation that acknowledges that not all criteria will be directly relevant to all people, so a weighted aggregation of the criteria is implemented with the final per capita equation looking like $GNH = 1 - Ha$, where Ha is the headcount and represents the percentage of people who do not enjoy sufficiency in six or more of the criteria.

Pillars for good government – well being and environmental conservation

Gross National Happiness in Bhutan is overseen by the GNH Commission, which

scrutinises and approves each piece of government policy and each piece of legislation to ensure that it meets the four pillars of GNH in government: sustainable and equitable socio-economic development; conservation of the environment; preservation and promotion of culture; and good governance.

By taking the focus of national development away from the economy and providing a broad foundation of well-being for people and place, the Bhutanese government is achieving something that wealthy developed nations are moving further away from: the well-being of all people and a respect for the environment. ■

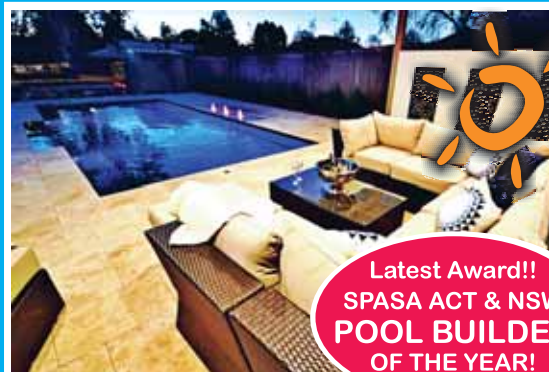
PALERANG COUNCIL

Development Approvals

Notification in accordance with Section 101 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Council approved the following development applications in February 2014

Development Consents are available for public inspection free of charge at Council’s offices during ordinary business hours.

Application No	Development Description	Date	Property Description
DA.2013.211	Alterations and Additions, Dual Occupancy and Garage	17/02/2014	Lot 2 DP1184383 3059 Cooma Road KRAWARREE
DA.2013.273	Shed and Continued Use of Slab and Partial Wall	11/02/2014	Lot 1 DP1149614 1472 Federal Hwy Service Road SUTTON
DA.2013.283	Two (2) Lot Subdivision	10/02/2014	Lot 7 Sec 22 DP758183 56 Butmaroo Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2013.285	Manufactured Home / Dual Occupancy	13/02/2014	Lot 192 DP754915 39 Lake Road BUNGENDORE
DA.2013.288	Dwelling	26/02/2014	Lot 1 DP1177362 1138 Bungendore Road BYWONG
DA.2013.290	Dwelling	13/02/2014	Lot 10 DP247399 60 Finlay Place BURRA
DA.2013.293	Dwelling and Decommission Existing Dwelling as Habitable	5/02/2014	Lot 2 DP1179370 8642 Kings Highway MANAR
DA.2013.299	Dwelling and Tree Removal	17/02/2014	Lot 271 DP1181419 96 Wyoming Road BYWONG
DA.2014.002	Swimming Pool	13/02/2014	Lot 95 DP705692 122 Douglas Close CARWOOLA
DA.2014.005	Tree Removal	20/02/2014	Lot 5 DP747432 59 Harriott Road BYWONG
DA.2014.006	Shed with tank	11/02/2014	Lot 30 DP1068578 At the rear of 5 Wilson Street MAJORS CREEK
DA.2014.007	Removal of Two (2) Trees	12/02/2014	Lot 2 DP612225 64 Ellendon Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.009	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	17/02/2014	Lot 3 DP818625123A Ellendon Street BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.015	Removal of Thirty (30) Trees	21/02/2014	Lot 34 DP736646 154 Weeroona Drive WAMBOIN
DA.2014.022	30,000 Litre Water Tank	19/02/2014	Lot 11 DP1011276 6 John Dwyer Crescent BUNGENDORE
DA.2014.030	Tree Removal	25/02/2014	Lot 1 Sec 29 DP758152 73 Monkitee Street BRAIDWOOD



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Pasture growth, water levels worry landholders and businesses 2013 hottest year on record

CANBERRA Bureau of Meteorology's Sean Carson told the *District Bulletin* that December and January 2014 had been "extremely" dry and hot in Palerang.

Heavy Horse Heaven: refuge from difficult times

CHARLIE, Smokey, Popcorn and Honeycomb, they're just a few of the horses who have found refuge, temporary or long term, at Heavy Horse Heaven (HHH) on Roka Downs in Royalla.

"Here at Heavy Horse Heaven we work hard to set up the infrastructure and a support base to enable us to take in those heavy friends who are in need of some TLC or just a comfy place to live out their days," says Kazz Hood, founder of Heavy Horse Heaven Inc.

"There are many reasons that some people are unable to care for or keep their horses and we would like to help. There are many wonderful horse rescue organisations around the country, but it would seem there are none dedicated to our gentle giants."

HHH commenced rescue in September 2011 and you'll find their individual rescue stories and a lot more about this registered not-for-profit charity on www.heavyhorseheaven.com.

If you want to help, any donation over \$2 is tax deductible. HHH also raises funds through clothing and gifts you'll find on the webpage. "If you are aware of a heavy horse that is in need of our help, please contact us asap," said Kazz who can be reached on 0423 846 113.

"Every year at Elements Face & Body we pride ourselves in helping a part of our local community," says Elements' Deborah Olde. This year it is Heavy Horse Heaven in Royalla. Seen here, Deborah (left) at the Bungendore Show with Horse Heaven founder Kazz Hood. "I wish every business would take up one organisation to help," Deborah told the Bulletin. "I am running a raffle for a hand cream and massage or facial that we have donated to try and raise not only funds but awareness. Animals really cannot fend for themselves as much as we think and on too many occasions, due to lack of knowledge, are left to deteriorate beyond recovery."

Before the rain started in mid February, the rainfall had been "tracking towards the worst drought recorded since 1982-83", he said. The summer heat locally was also 'oppressive' with 20 days of temperatures recorded over 35.

The Bureau of Meteorology's Annual Climate Statement 2013 confirms Australia has recorded its hottest calendar year on record. Rainfall records show 'below average' for the last three months.

Local horse, cattle, sheep, and llama owners, gardeners and wine producers told the *Bulletin* that they had heaved a sigh of relief with the recent rainfall.

However, according to Carson, they still could have problems without further good follow-up rainfall in the near future, as the pasture "probably" would not grow much in autumn. Local Land Services' Mark McGaw agreed, saying more rainfall was needed before

the end of the warm weather to allow pastures to grow. He said lack of runoff rainfall was also a worry in some areas.

Many horse owners have had to resort to regular hand feeding. As one landholder noted the pasture grass just visibly "fried" in the hot dry weather. The water levels of dams had also dropped significantly, which was a concern.

Glynda Blum, from Alpaca Magic spoke for many when she said the lack of rainfall had affected her business.

"I need to feed more hay and chaff than I would normally feed and the feed is considerably more expensive as well. No matter how much hay is fed out (and at great cost), I don't think it is as nourishing and effective as "real" food (ie paddock grasses)."

Wildlife of all kinds also suffers under hot and dry conditions and loss of grasses.

Landholders noted kangaroos and wallabies resorting to their lawns and stock feed during the worst weather and coming to houses for water.

Vineyards suffering

The owner of Barton Estate Winery, Julie Chitty, said her vineyard still had water despite the recent hot, dry summer. But she knew of some wineries that had run out of water completely, and they were "struggling from the recent hot, hot, and dry summer".

Some vineyards had suffered from late frosts in early spring, and the recent heat and lack of rainfall had added an extra challenge to good crops, and some of the affected vineyard owners might have to buy fruit in.

She added that the recent rainfall was good, but she would prefer not to have it at this time, as the potential for disease to affect her good grape crop was a risk. Also, forecast heavy rainfall and hail may destroy the fully ripened fruit.

— report by Robyn Hall and staff



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New from Tim Winton The price of prosperity in the wild west

Reviewed by Sarah Newsome

TIM Winton's new novel, *Eyrie*, is a searing portrait of Australian values. It asks us what price we have paid for prosperity.

When we first meet Tom Keely, he is ill, divorced and unemployable. A failed idealist, he is holed up in "wary isolation" a skanky highrise flat, his "seedy little eyrie", marinating in booze and painkillers and self-loathing.

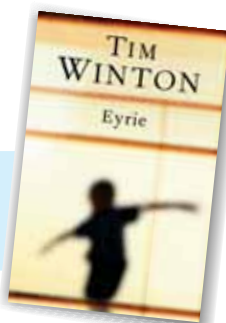
Tom once fought the good fight for the environment in the midst of the mining boom of Western Australia. WA is seen as "a phillistine giant, eager to pass off good fortune as virtue ... there was pentacostal ecstasy in the air, and to resist it was heresy." It's a place where hard work, cultural pursuits, and community mindedness have been replaced by greed and complacency.

Idealists like Keely are shown as ego-tripping adrenalin junkies, or big-hearted dupes, more angry than effective. They are just a "procedural obstacle" for the cowboys to wheel past as they yahoo towards the spoils. Defeated and disillusioned, Keely's wry humour is a thin gloss over his gaping despair.

Now all he wants is to be safe, to be left alone. But a chance meeting with someone from his childhood and it all changes.

Gemma, once a beautiful, fragile child has become hard-bitten, cynical and wary, as she struggles to raise her grandson Kai, while his mother does another stretch in prison for drugs and assault. Tom is captivated by Kai, intrigued and terrified in equal measure by his precarious grip on life. He sees that with one slip, the boy will fall. Tom's protective

Eyrie
by Tim Winton
RRP: \$45.00



instincts begin to needle him.

Kai's attention rouses Tom, shakes him from his tailspin, reminds him of a time when "the Keelys didn't have trouble, they fixed it," when Tom's father, Kev, waded into the fray to defend the weak, stare down the bully, and stand up for justice.

From the first, we can see what a good man Tom is. We want him to heal, to be redeemed. The scene is set for a classic tale of redemption, complete with soaring music at the end. But somehow we know. Tim Winton won't serve up a happy ending like a sickly sweet dessert.

Winton makes other writers seem as bland as baby food. Like all his characters, Tommy, Gemma and Kai are unlikable and heartbreaking in equal measure. They refuse to be airbrushed. Tommy is maudlin, stumbling, shamefaced. Gemma, harsh and tender, with "a face like a spanked arse" is no comely princess to be rescued. And Kai, with his eerie, affectless stare, too used to disappointment, is not the cutesy kid.

Winton's minor characters are no less uncompromisingly realistic. A parade of swaggering philistines, scary yummy mummies, smug do-gooders, witless wage slaves, damaged battlers, malevolent derros, drug-addled con artists, and haughty barristas form the backdrop to this tale.

Tommy has lost his job, his friends, his marriage, his reason for being, every element of his manhood. But slowly, little by little, he, Gemma and Kai begin to form a fragile little family, something to fend off the loneliness, a bulwark against a hostile world.

When Gemma and Kai are threatened by Kai's father, a sociopathic speed freak, Tommy is well-primed to respond. For Kai, Tom is a righteous protector, a good father, like Tom's own. "It made a man feel enormous and substantial," writes Winton.

The final scene has provoked a lot of controversy. Some call it an anti-climax, the ultimate defeat of Tom's idealism. But I don't see it that way. When Tom, bleeding to death from a knife wound, charges after the man threatening Kai, I see that there is redemption.

And when the cops, the ambo, the bystanders, come to his aid rather than scuttle away, I also see healing. Tom's final words say it all. "Thank you. I am well."

A different view of prosperity is held by the people of Bhutan with their Gross National Happiness Index as our correspondent Robin Tennant-Wood explains, p8.

The People Smuggler
by Robin de Crespigny
Penguin Books RRP \$29.95

Reviewed by Farz Edraki

IF SOMEONE were to mention "people smuggler" to you, what would come to mind? Most likely, you'd think of a villain or a criminal. The image typically conjured in popular media of smugglers is one of shady dealings in dark corners of Indonesia – dealings leading to deaths of thousands on board rickety boats.

This demonization of all people smugglers as inherently 'evil' isn't new; its roots lie in Australia's political history. John Howard said releasing children from detention would entice money-grubbing smugglers to up their game.

In his first term, Kevin Rudd cast them as the "scum of the earth" who should "rot in hell". Immigration Minister Scott Morrison has announced Australia is officially at "war" with smugglers (along with terrorists, one-punch perpetrators and sugar, just in case you haven't kept up with the hit-list).

Perhaps, then, it's impossible to pick up a novel with a title like *The People Smuggler* without these preconceptions. It's almost as though we've become hard-wired to mute our internal compassion when it comes to people smugglers. Robin de Crespigny's novel – which traces the life of one such Iraqi smuggler – invites us to do just the opposite.

It took just over three years for de Crespigny to put Ali Al Jenabi's story on paper, using his voice as the narrator. From a childhood in Iraq to spending time in Abu Ghraib under Saddam's rule to living in Indonesia and later spending time in detention and prison in Australia – Al Jenabi's story is epic, both in length and sheer subject matter.

The novel is divided into three sections: Iraq (1970–1999); Indonesia (1999–2003);

Australia (2003–2012). The first section, 'Iraq', takes up a substantial bulk; it begins with Al Jenabi as a child in Iraq, watching his father go to Abu Ghraib (and later suffering the same "deep humiliation" himself) after the government accuses his family of wayward political leanings. Al Jenabi then spends time fighting the Saddam regime in Kurdistan, before escaping to Iran and later, Indonesia.

It's not until the pg 161 that we are first exposed to Al Jenabi's life as a people smuggler. By detailing his tragic childhood and tumultuous adulthood, de Crespigny challenges us to consider Al Jenabi as a human. We're told that he first

accepted a role as a smuggler on the promise that his family could one day secure a safe passage to Australia. We're also told that he and his family applied to the UN for refugee status, but were denied.

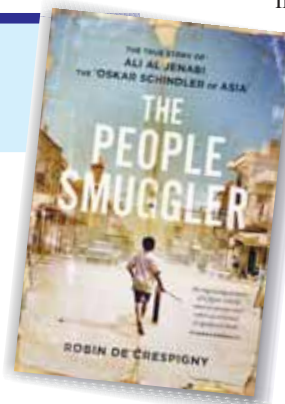
According to Al Jenabi, "The belief that there are orderly queues where asylum seekers line up and wait their turn is extraordinary. Millions

of people drift into shambolic UN camps all over the world, and only about two percent are ever settled. For some it takes a few years, for others decades, with many eventually giving up on the UN and finding a smuggler to take them on a boat."

This is a far cry from the 'queue-jumping' narrative we're often fed by politicians. He also makes the point that "it is unclear why Australians are so strangely unconcerned about asylum seekers arriving by airplane; maybe because there are not pictures in the paper or on TV. But they are so afraid of the two percent who come by boat that they lock them up like criminals."

These insights make this novel an important one to read. Don't get me wrong, it isn't without its challenging and uncomfortable moments. Particularly the passages that detail boats that perished at sea, like the now-infamous SIEVX. Al Jenabi isn't like all people smugglers, either. He regularly meets and deals with swindling, deceptive smugglers and some who just don't take proper precautions with their vessels.

"To be a smuggler you need to have both compassion and a hard head," says Al Jenabi at one point. "It is possible to keep [compassion and being tough] alive, but at this moment my two sides are at war." *The People Smuggler* challenges the idea that all people smugglers are criminals — an important message given the government's increasingly hard-line policy on asylum seekers. ■



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Film and DVD

Judy Thompson looks at two Australian winners

From Alice to the ocean: amazing trip with camels and wardrobe style

Tracks is based on the true life adventures of Robyn Davidson who completed a journey from Uluru to the West Australian coast with four camels and a dog for company.

Robyn Davidson is a self-taught social anthropologist who specialises in nomadic peoples. She has also studied nomadic lifestyles in India.

Davidson was Salman Rushdie's lover while he wrote *Satanic Verses* and she lived with Doris Lessing in London while she wrote the book *Tracks*, following the success of her article for the *National Geographic*. The photographer for the article who dropped in on her from time to time, later published his photos in a book called *From Alice To The Ocean*.

Most of the reviews for this film question whether Robyn Davidson was walking

to something or walking away from it and ask why she did it. Davidson asks, "why not?"

In a Booktopia Interview on YouTube, Caroline Baum asks Davidson whether she ever questioned the hubris of undertaking such a journey herself.

Davidson says that it was partly the era and a feeling of infinite possibility, that she could create "a new person out of outdated myths". Davidson also says that as a young woman she was obsessed with failure and felt the journey itself was a way of proving that she was not a failure.

The concerns about finding water and the physical discomfort were issues at the time but she does not remember being frightened of death. In retrospect she says she feels blessed to have been able to do the journey before the world got "pathologically safe" with satellite navigation and air conditioned SUVs.

Another blessing was her continuing relationship with the Eddie family who were consulted during the filming process. Mr Eddie helped Davidson on her journey by guiding her towards water.

She also enjoyed the camels that are described as more intelligent than horses, because they are "less domesticated and have a greater range of personalities".

Davidson says that she is surprised by the wisdom of her younger self when she distils what she has learnt from her journey in the book, namely that you are as powerful and as strong as you allow yourself to be.

She approves of the current film featur-

ing Canberra-born actress Mia Wasikowska. A previous unsuccessful project was to feature a naked Julia Roberts being carried around a campfire as part of a ceremony initiating her into the aboriginal community.

The film has generally received complimentary reviews especially about the spell-binding scenery. But Xan Brooks from *The Guardian* is critical of the film, wondering if the camels were mainly needed to carry Robyn/Mia's wardrobe, which looks like "the autumn collection for Banana Republic".

Support Australian films, travel from Alice to the ocean from the pathological safety of my cinema seat and enjoy a fashion show to boot? It sounds perfect – can't wait to see it. *Tracks* opens in early March. Directed by John Curran, also starring Adam Driver.

— * * * —

THOSE interested in extreme challenges and amazing adventures might also like to check out Australian Tim Cope's book ***On the Trail of Genghis Khan***, a three-year journey by horseback from eastern Mongolia to the Danube in Hungary through the lands of the nomads.

— * * * —

Nostalgia trip with humour, great scenery and satisfying plot

Drift is a surfing movie set in the 1970s. Mrs Kelly escapes an abusive husband by driving from Sydney to the Margaret River with her two young sons.

The boys grow up as skilled surfers and eventually start a business selling wetsuits made by mum and surfboards made by them and a friend. They have to deal with a conservative and uncooperative banker and initially sell their wares from the back of their van.

The plot thickens when the friend suffers

from existential angst, does drugs and involves them with the local drug dealers. Inevitably there is a girl, some serious sibling rivalry and a terrifying surfing competition. Things look very grim but there is a happy ending.

The scenery and surfing sequences are beautiful and the story pays homage to the surfing brands that grew up in Australia in the 1960s and 70s. Apparently the film was shot on a low budget in 32 days and involved no digital enhancements of the waves that are truly awesome.

Justin Housman of *Surfer* magazine is critical in his review about a tow-out scene which is fifteen years too early but even he commends the photography and the surfing sequences.

The film is funny, charming and Australian made. Mrs Kelly is terrific. *Drift* is available for rental on DVD. ■

Mystery Road

ANOTHER terrific Australian film seen by *Bulletin* staff is *Mystery Road* from interesting new Australian director Ivan Sen and starring Aaron Pedersen. Short-changed on theatrical release and now out on DVD, this is Australian film-making that doesn't rely on gore or dissecting neurotic urban dilemmas. Set in the vast spaces of outback Queensland, with fantastic cinematography, it's a police procedural played out like a western.

Pedersen's Aboriginal detective is a loner up against hostility from both black and white cultures, drug dealers, kangaroo shooters and his police colleagues as he unravels the mystery behind the killing of a teenage girl, and comes to grips with his own past. It's garnered rave reviews from many viewers. Outstanding performances including from Hugo Weaving and Jack Thompson add to a complex picture of mystery, tension and loss in this outback setting. It doesn't neatly tie up all the plot points, but isn't that life?

Theatre review

Neil Simon comedy is back with *Addams* family star at helm

They're Playing Our Song
by Neil Simon, Marvin Hamlisch and Carole Bayer Sager

IN A story based on the real-life relationship of composer Marvin Hamlisch and lyricist Carole Bayer Sager, a wisecracking composer finds a new, offbeat lyricist. When Vernon Gersch invites Sonia Walsk to his luxury Manhattan apartment, it signals the beginning of a whirlwind professional and romantic relationship for these two very different personalities.

When it comes to making music, they are a match made in heaven. But is this relationship doomed, or will love hit the right note?

Following its 2013 tour to Qld, Vic, NSW and ACT, much-loved comedy *They're Playing Our Song* returns with Scott Irwin (*Hairspray*, *Les Misérables*) and new co-star Teagan Wouters (*The Addams Family Musical*, *Legally Blonde the Musical*, *Jersey Boys*). With such memorable songs as *I Still Believe in Love*, *If He Really Knew Me*, *They're Playing Our Song* and *Fallin'*, this romantic comedy is an unforgettable evening of stellar musical entertainment.

"You are in for an absolute treat!"

– Theatre People

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THEY'RE PLAYING OUR SONG

Starring Scott Irwin and Teagan Wouters

"You're in for an absolute treat!" - Theatre People

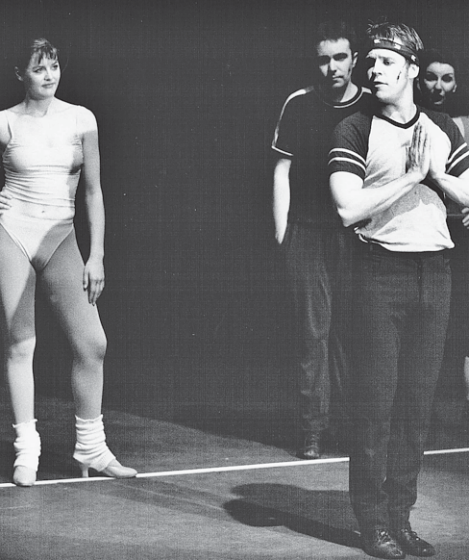
28 March - 5 April

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ARTS
CENTRE

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For tickets call **6285 6290** or visit
www.theq.net.au



MIKE SMITH

From p1

Award nomination for Male Artist in a Feature Role for his star turn.

Television came shortly after, with appearances in that Australian acting staple *Neighbours*, as well as the well-received, long-running medical drama, *All Saints*. Of his relatively early success, the actor says it was not something he ever took for granted.

"We have a relatively small industry in Australia with an incredible pool of talent, so any opportunity should be treated with great respect. I've been very fortunate to date and very appreciative of the people who have gone in to bat for me. It's true

that they say about time and place and a little bit of luck."

Smith is currently back on the audition scene in Sydney while his wife Jillian, also an actor, has just been cast in Baz Luhrmann's *Strictly Ballroom*. The once Queanbeyan High student has fond memories of his former hometown and retains strong family links with the city.

Mutual admiration at The Q

But it was only in October of last year that Smith performed for the first time ever for his home audience, appearing at The Q in the central role of *The 39 Steps*. The reception was warm and the reviews glowing.

"I had a wonderful time in Queanbeyan.

Favourite things

MARY Poppins' "favourite things" may have included snowflakes and brown paper packages but mine are slightly more sophisticated and definitely more expensive. For a treasure trove such as Annie's you look for items which are appealing and unique, and we fortunately have the opportunity to purchase such items.

I have often been asked what my favourite items in the shop are; what is the oldest item, what is the most valuable and what would be the most historically significant.

It is so difficult to isolate one or two favourites because basically I like everything I buy. My favourites include a stunning set of four Stuart crystal madeira glasses, a Waterford crystal ships decanter, my Royal Doulton collection of Lambeth vases and jugs, a pair of Poole echidna

plates that were modelled on our one cent coin, my uranium glass collection and of course, my Shelley tea and coffee sets.

The oldest items are a Minton cup and saucer dating from 1852, an 1880's Hukin and Heath salt cellar with a sterling silver collar, and a



G&JW Hawksley Powder Flask made in Sheffield England in about 1820.

The most valuable is a pair of Royal Doulton Lambeth vases signed by Ethel Beard and dating from about 1928-1931.

The most historically significant include an AIF Souvenir diary 1914-1918

inscribed "To Lionel, From Uncle (I think), Jan 1st 1920". This diary records the historic events of the Great War and lists all VC Heroes. Another item I have previously mentioned is a fork with a note attached saying "I 'looted'! this fork - going through YPRES in 1915, when the whole city was blazing and being v. heartily shelled by the Huns".

I am having a massive March sale on the weekend of 15 and 16 March, 25% off 90 percent of all stock, and 10% off the remaining 10 percent.

— Till next time, Annie



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— KEEPSAKES —

What exactly does archival quality mean?

SO YOU'VE inherited a collection of old letters, documents and fading black and white photographs from grandma. Or you have your wedding dress hanging in the back closet gathering dust. Or maybe you want to know a better way to keep baby's christening gown for future generations.

They may be in a plastic bag or tub, in an old shoebox or jammed into a photo album that is falling apart. You know you want to keep them but are not quite sure how to store them. It can be overwhelming deciding what to use. But it doesn't have to be.

Firstly, it is important to understand that



quality storage will help protect your keepsakes for years to come.

'Archival quality' is a general term used to imply that a container is chemically stable. However a more significant term to look for is 'acid and lignin-free'.

Acid and lignin-free cardboard has been cleared of chemicals that would otherwise cause damage to items. They create a safe environment. Boxes made from this are popular because they come in a wide range of sizes and styles to suit all applications. They can be used together with buffered and unbuffered tissue.

Acid free boxes are also useful in storage. Polypropylene is an inert plastic and can be safely used to store your textiles, documents and letters. They also come in folders and sleeve dividers to help organise and store photographs.

For a more details on what can be safely used for storing precious keepsakes or to post any questions, please visit Family Keepsakes at www.facebook.com.

Next month: ANZAC DAY special.

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Odyssey Books, local publisher of fiction and non-fiction, can also help you publish your own great novel, family history, or business book. Find out how at www.odysseybooks.com.au/custom-publishing.

Gardening. **Need a hand?** Wendy's Mowing is offering free quotes in our area. Town yards + rural house blocks, etc, pensioner discounts. Insured & police checked. During this bushfire season it is essential to protect you and your family by keeping the grass short and the area around the house cleared. Contact Wendy 6298 1720; wendysmowing@dodo.com.au; 0439 883 298. Local and reliable.

Farm and Livestock

1996 FORD FALCON FUTURA Reg. until May 2014. Runs well, good tyres, towbar. \$750 ono. Tel 6238 1865.

Caroola Farm's sustainable, local, organically grown and humanely raised whole **chickens and ducks** are now available direct from farm (www.caroolafarm.com.au 4842 1899) or in-store at Food Lovers Market Bungendore.

For sale: **Guinea fowl keets**. Young, unsexed. Pearl/pied \$10ea and lavender \$15ea. Contact 0402 302 857.

For sale: **Tractor grading blade** 3 point linkage. The blade can be changed to different grading angles. \$1,000 neg. Stefan on 6238199, Wamboin.

Piglets for sale. "delicious, this is how pork used to taste, full of flavour," a very satisfied customer after eating this local, sow-reared, stall-free, free-ranging pig. Put in your order now to reserve a pure-bred pig available in 8 weeks. Also great as breeding pigs as these are all pure bred Sussex Saddlebacks. 0422 225 358. Buy Local in Bywong.

Wanted. **Aviaries or large cages** suitable for our beautiful Australian birds. The birds are rescued and Wild Cared-for prior to being released back to where they came from in the bush. Maryanne 0411 422 897 Wildcare Queanbeyan (free or for sale). There are literally hundreds of registered Wildcare carers in our local area alone. So please support the locals who help the local wildlife.

Garage/ Boot sales

Wildcare are having a stall at the Bywong Boot Sale Sunday March 30. if you have any saleable items you would like to donate for this Wildcare fundraising stall contact Phil to arrange collection of items, or consider dropping them off at his place in Wamboin, 6238 3717 or machin4@bigpond.com. One of the many locals helping the native locals to survive in the bush.

Garage sale. Saturday 22 March 9-12 noon. Barnet Estate, 16kms south of Tarago on Braidwood road. "Combined households". Well sign posted on the day. 0429 200 456 for details.

Fresh produce and yummies

Eggs. "We got laid in Bywong" the original hand picked, fresh, free-range eggs from very happy hens. Fed on our homegrown or freshly sourced local vegies. Text Martin 0432 851 914. Rovere Rd, off Macs Reef Rd. Look for our recipes and egg-spirations at www.MartinsOrganics.com.au.

Handmade gourmet foods, shortbread, tempting white & dark rocky road, celebration cakes, lemon butter. Local fruit jams, marmalade. Perfectly presented for a gift or for you. Taylor's of Bywong, exclusive to Pendon Produce 413 Norton Rd Wamboin. Special orders taken on request. Easter is coming! Locally made and locally sourced.

Pendon Produce. Freshly picked seasonal produce. Locally grown by organic methods, no pesticides, no nitrates or other chemicals. Freshly picked mixed salads & wild rocket. 413 Norton Rd, Wamboin, opposite (Bingley Rd). Penny 6238 3447.

Pauline's Garden. Pop in and shop for fresh seasonal produce. Taste the difference of genuine home grown vegetables, fruits, herbs, (all varieties). Spinach, spring onions and silver beet. Delicious honey, preserves & jams. Bagel crisps. Potted plants. Ring ahead (6238 1996) and your hand picked order will be ready when you want it. 1289 Norton Rd, Wamboin.

Home grown, home-made swap. Bring your excess produce to swap or give away. No money, just exchange. This market is now on the first Sunday of every month. So come along, bring and swap outside Wild Rose Organics Ellendon St, Bungendore. Contact Louise or Jennie on 6238 1422 louise@wildroseorganics.com.au. A local initiative for the locals.

Send your **FREE** classifieds in 25 words or less to
— thebulletinclassifieds@yahoo.com.au —
with your name, address, phone or email contact, and category:
Collectables, Building supplies, Gardening supplies (excepting masses of plastic pots), Household appliances or furniture in good working order, Auto accessories, Farm equipment and farm animals, Clearing, estate or garage sales, Designer clothes or quality childrens' clothes, Wanted to buy or exchange.

March skies bright and moving to autumn

MARCH night skies this year allow opportunity to see several bright planets, particularly Jupiter, Mars and Saturn, along with several examples of bright colourful stars peppering the summer Milky Way. These bright stars are now moving further towards the west, with the stars of autumn starting to reappear in the east.

Bright stars for the month include orange Aldebaran, red Betelgeuse, blue-white Rigel, the white stars Procyon, Sirius and Canopus, and blue-white Achenar. Yellow Alpha Centauri is rising once again low in the south east.

The planets in March: Jupiter, Mars and Saturn

There are three of the Solar System's bright planets easily visible in our skies this month; Jupiter, Saturn and (the upcoming highlight for April) the planet Mars.

Jupiter was at its best for 2014 in early January and continues to shine as a bright yellowish 'star' towards the north in the constellation Gemini. It is unmistakable and easily identified using the map for the month.

Small telescopes will show Jupiter's disk and cloud bands as described in detail last month, as well as four of its moons. Jupiter will continue to be visible in our evening skies for a few more months before it passes behind the Sun as seen from Earth.

The planet Mars is becoming easier to see later in the evening. To see Mars, look out for a bright red 'star' rising low in the east at around 10pm. The red colour is unmistakable, and as it presents a tiny disk rather than a star-like point, Mars (as for the other planets) doesn't twinkle.

The red planet will be at its best for the year next month, when it shall be described in more detail. Incidentally the month of March itself was named after Mars, and was the first month of the earliest Roman

— Star Search — with Dr David Weldrake

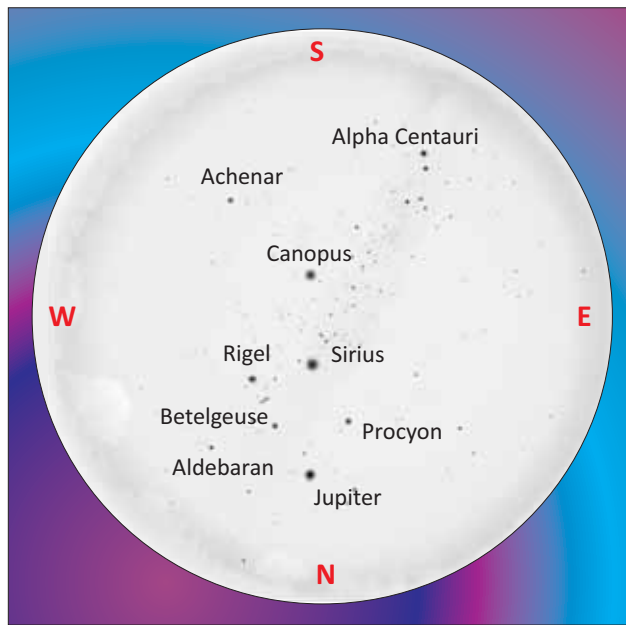


CHART (9PM ON 15 MARCH) PRODUCED USING THE STELLARIUM SOFTWARE PACKAGE

calendar.

As Mars is further away from the Sun than the Earth, a year (the length of time it takes for planets to orbit around the Sun once) takes longer to happen; in Mars' case it takes just under two Earth-years. We

have to wait a little longer than that between the times when we can see it clearly. Mars is the most Earth-like of all the other planets, take this opportunity to go out and see it for yourself!

Saturn is the third planet to see this month, rising before midnight in the constellation Libra. Saturn looks to the eye like a fairly bright yellowish star, but a small telescope reveals the planet's magnificent system of rings, along with its brightest moon, Titan. Saturn will be at its best for the year in May.

As Mars and Saturn rise in the east close to midnight, the map for the month does not show them, as it represents the sky at 9pm in the middle of the month.

Early risers can also catch the planets Mercury and Venus, both shining in the constellation Capricorn and rising a couple of hours before the Sun. Venus is unmistakably bright, and Mercury is a similar colour although fainter. Look for two bright white 'stars' which do not appear to twinkle.

The Moon was new on the 2 March, is full on the 17, and at first quarter (half) phase on the 9. Have a look through a pair of binoculars on the 9th, the details of the lunar mountains and craters are very easy to see. ■



A Green politician finally speaks up for 'common' Australian wildlife, as international icon is decimated

THE Australian Greens as state-based political parties often appear on media with views on urban social issues but seldom as protectors of wildlife and other 'green', non-urban issues (other than Tasmanian forests and the big one, climate change).

While condemning other country's environmental vandalism (Japanese whaling), the Greens have remained silent on the biggest terrestrial slaughter of wildlife on the planet, conducted right here in Australia. (And in the ACT a Green minister and his Green adviser have supported a highly controversial civic program of slaughtering Eastern Grey Kangaroos in Canberra's nature reserves.)

The silence was broken in February when NSW Green Senator Lee Rhiannon made a ground-breaking speech in federal parliament: revealing the hidden story behind the so-called 'harvest' by commercial operators of declining numbers of Australia's national icon.

The meat is used for petfood, export and most recently featured in a media campaign to convince Australians that eating kangaroo is a patriotic gesture to help drought stricken farmers.

Here's a bit of what she said*

Senator RHIANNON (New South Wales) (20:46): In 2011, the four large kangaroos that can be commercially shot were nominated for listing in New South Wales as threatened species. That nomination, based on the government's own data, reveals a serious trend of decline in kangaroo numbers in just about every kangaroo management zone in New South Wales since kangaroo surveys began some 30 years ago.

The published science of kangaroo reproductive biology and population ecology shows that the so-called population explosions described in the data – used to assert recovery from decline – are biologically impossible for this slow-breeding marsupial. Current analysis of the survey methodology and raw data is now suggesting systematic and massive inflation of kangaroo numbers, from which corresponding excessively inflated commercial shooting quo-

tas are extracted – so that larger numbers may be shot from shrinking populations.

Two years after its submission, the NSW Scientific Committee has still not made a decision on the nomination. Meanwhile, the commercial shooting industry continues to empty local landscapes of kangaroos ... Often land-owners mop up what the commercial shooters fail to kill. But it seems that the idea that macropods – various kangaroo species – might be in trouble is one that simply does not register.

We need to ask: why does this issue receive so little attention? It seems that notions of kangaroo abundance and unquestioning belief in the myth of population explosions are so firmly entrenched in the Australian psyche that we do not think to question the science behind shooting kangaroos.

“ From 2001 to 2011, national population estimates across commercial hunting zones in the four mainland states recorded a 40 percent drop

From 2001 to 2011, collated national population estimates across commercial hunting zones in the four mainland states recorded a 40 percent drop. We need to ask why this is not an issue of concern. Maybe it is because there were still an estimated 34 million in 2011. But this is down from 57 million in 2001, according to the department's own collated figures. These sorts of numbers still seem to correspond with early settler accounts of 'immense flocks' and 'swarms' of kangaroos across our landscapes. That is certainly the impression many people have.

It all suggests abundance: twin myths of plague and pest promoted by a highly organised and strategic-thinking industry via an unquestioning political framework and repeated by uncritical media and unknowing Australians as common fact.

“ an unrecorded estimated additional 24.3 million joeys bashed over the head

Our unquestioning acceptance of those myths has, from 1975 to 2011, permitted nearly 90 million kangaroos and wallabies to be legally shot for the commercial market

alone, with an unrecorded estimated additional 24.3 million joeys bashed over the head – and that is actually allowed under the code of practice – or left to die.

The notion of a superabundance of kangaroos, and a complacency about the science behind the shooting of kangaroos, is pivotal to the continuing industrial scale slaughter of this internationally iconic animal.

* You can find the rest [online.district bulletin.com.au](http://bulletin.com.au) or at <http://lee-rhiannon.greensmps.org.au/content/speeches-parliament/adjournment-speech-kangaroos-iconic-species-risk>.

For more on the data behind the NSW nomination of kangaroos as threatened go to www.kangaroosatrisk.net.



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Merry Christmas Mr Murdoch

FAIRFAX media reported in mid February on an \$800 million federal budget payout to Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation following a federal court decision in December on a long-running tax dispute with the ATO. It was said to represent "a significant proportion of the \$16.8 billion deterioration in the federal budget announced by the Treasurer Joe Hockey in December".

As foreign media wrote about the payout "kneecapping" the Australian budget, Hockey forgot to mention the payout to the Australian public. Instead he blamed a softer economic outlook, downgraded export forecasts and the previous Labor government, reported Fairfax.

The Australian Tax Justice Network thought the whole affair highlighted the way some multinational companies were able to dodge their local tax liabilities.

Two royal commissions may cost taxpayers \$100 million plus, and yield little

[On the royal commission into the 2008-2009 home insulation scheme.] "Abbott has not got to first base except in hyperbole in fixing the blame on federal politicians. He might as well blame the minister for health for a death by doctor negligence if a procedure were paid for by Medicare. An array of independent reviews and inquests, state and federal, has not advanced Abbott's allegations. His royal commission looks much more like a political

revenge mission

"It may complement another royal commission (into unions) that he has put on foot – of providing a constant reminder at public expense of the alleged ineptitude [etc] of the Rudd and Gillard governments ... It is essentially an indulgence with public funds.

"This is the more so when the Treasurer, Joe Hockey, has been arguing that there is a crisis of public finance and a need for heavy cuts. The two royal commissions will have cost more than \$100 million by the time they have finished – and largely to the profit of a few lawyers. Such a sum, were it available, might be saving or creating jobs."

— (Canberra Times editorial 'An Indulgence we can ill afford' 24 February 2014)

Time to grow up? Regional cooperation the loser

The Canberra Times has reported that a year-long enquiry into how the ACT can develop closer ties with its NSW neighbours "ended in chaos" when the four person MLA committee overseeing it deadlocked. Working more closely with neighbouring councils including Palerang and Queanbeyan on issues such as regional development, service delivery, and cost savings was the goal.

The reason for the stalemate? The committee had two Labor and two Liberal members and apparently they were not about to agree. Chief Minister Katy Gallagher thought it was a bad look that "highly-paid MLA's sitting on a committee over 11 months cannot deliver a report." Conflicting Labor and Liberal draft reports have been published. ■

Hallelujah! Palerang LEP sees the light

AFTER being in construction for at least eight of Palerang Council's 10 years, the revised Local Environment Plan (LEP) was unanimously passed at council's 27 February extraordinary meeting.

Bringing six inherited LEPs that govern permitted development under one document was a major work and the goal of the new plan. It now goes to state authorities for final approval and gazettal.

The 27 February meeting again drew a crowd of rural residential protesters, primarily from Bywong, who again voiced their concerns that their properties would fall under an "environmental protection zone" with the new LEP.

The protest organisers over the past year have repeatedly disseminated incorrect and frightening information about the content of the LEP and intent of council, straight to people's mailboxes. (Latest leaflet left in letterboxes in February, next page.)

Wearing home-made badges supporting R5 (the protesters' preferred zone for rural residential) many insisted they represented a community majority, a position not supported by the numbers. There were 137 protest submissions to the exhibited draft, out of roughly 3,000 residents in Wamboin and Bywong with essentially no protests from the areas east of Queanbeyan and few from Sutton.

Councillors Schweikert, Hicks and Graham who don't live rural residential but do share a political viewpoint with the protest organisers, encouraged the 'majority' story. Their motion to take 'environmental living' (E4), the name the protesters don't like, out of the plan temporarily, failed to pass.

However, Graham and also Councillor Marshall did make the telling observation that poor communication and the difficulty many people experience with 'official' language which changes ordinary English meanings like agriculture, had contributed to the upset.

Mayor Pete Harrison, a Wamboin community leader who has taken a good deal of personal abuse on the issue, reminded the crowd that zones and their objectives were all set by previous councils.

He noted that everyone was saying they want to keep the protections for lifestyle and amenity of the old rural residential 1(d) zoning (whose objectives are in fact quite strong on conservation). A comparison table, easily found in the LEP document, shows that the E4 objectives were set up to be a close facsimile of old 1(d)..

Loss of E3 still unsolved

A sleeper issue in the LEP is the loss of E3 'environmental management' objectives throughout Palerang following a vote in

Continued next page

Caring for someone at home?

Carers NSW is the state-wide peak organisation for carers with an exclusive focus on supporting and advocating for all carers in NSW. For information, support, referral, counselling, or to access one of the many programs delivered by Carers NSW, call the Carer Line 1800 242 636 (9am-5pm weekdays) or visit www.carersnsw.org.au.

Habitat workshops for Wamboin/Bywong and Burra/Royalla

THE natural landscape in rural residential areas has undergone significant change since the arrival of the first European settlers almost 200 years ago. Early land clearing and the grazing of livestock resulted in habitat for wildlife being removed, fragmented or degraded.

However, much has been done to restore or protect natural environments since – particularly through soil conservation works and tree planting and awareness of wildlife habitat.

FuturePLANS and the Molonglo Catchment Group – with funding from the Great



Threatened species: A Rosenberg's Monitor looking for habitat on a Bywong house.

Eastern Ranges Initiative – have organised workshops in Wamboin, Bywong and Burra/Royalla on protecting and managing wildlife habitat

Members of the community can share information about local flora and fauna, identify and discuss threats and issues facing remnant wildlife habitat, and consider possible solutions.

Program facilitator Greg Stone said "the issues for wildlife habitat range from threats such as weeds or feral animals, the loss of remnant vegetation, through to a lack of know-

ledge or land management skills within the community. The solutions will be just as varied and may include on-ground works or training for landholders."

The workshop is free of charge, but **bookings for Wamboin/Bywong are essential by 12 March 2014.**

When? Wamboin / Bywong: 15 March. Burra / Royalla: 22 March.

For bookings or more info contact: Greg Stone on 0422 279 946 or woodlandseviro@gmail.com.

Bendigo Bank: Business Bank of the Year for third time

BENDIGO Bank has been named Business Bank of the Year (2013) at Roy Morgan Research's Customer Satisfaction Awards. This marks the third consecutive year the bank has received the accolade, after being judged best in business at the inaugural awards in 2011 and again in 2012.

Bungendore Community Bank Branch Man-

ager, Leigh Felton said the award was recognition of the significant investment the bank had made in the business space throughout 2013.

"Over the past 12 months we have invested heavily in staff training, and looked at innovative ways to engage with our business network," Leigh said. "We continue to strive to improve our business offering, so we can retain the wonderful support of our loyal customers."

Leigh said the Bank had also been busy investigating opportunities in the digital space, opening up new ways of doing business for both the Bank and its customers.

Bendigo Bank's Business Banking team is made up of 300 dedicated staff located across Australia, providing specialist advice and a wide range of services including cash flow solutions, interest rate risk management, agribusiness, merchant facilities, insurance and other business solutions.

"Our team works hard to ensure that for businesses, big and small, banking with Bendigo Bank is easy."

For more information, call your local Branch Manager Banker, Leigh Felton on 6238 0482 or 0400 521 032.

— Press release

..... COMMUNITY NOTICES

You are warmly invited to attend
"Keeping older people and their pets together: supporting older pet owners at home"

An information session presented by the Pets and Aged Care Steering Group
Thursday 27 March 2014 from 10am-12noon

Hughes Community Centre, Hughes Shops, ACT

RSVP on djohnstone@bigpond.com or ph 62731054 (leave a message)

Guest speakers include *The Bulletin's* Heike Hahner

Bywong Community
bywongcommunity.org.au

Money raised supports the local community

CAR BOOT SALE

If you want to become a seller and need a site (only \$15) contact Greg Gougeon on 6236 9841 or email bywongbootsale@yahoo.com

If you would like to become a raffle sponsor and donate a prize, email Pauline on paulinechambers@yahoo.com.au

Keep this day free...
Sunday March 30
from 9am to 1pm

QUEANBEYAN LIONS CLUB PRESENTS

Walk for Babies

Join in a 5km walkathon for the whole family at Queanbeyan Park
Raising funds for the Queanbeyan Hospital Maternity Ward

Sunday 6 April 2014
Registration starts at 9.30am
\$10 for individuals \$15 for families

❖ Live Music ❖ Chocolate Wheel ❖ Face painting ❖ Jumping Castle
❖ Sausage sizzle ❖ Drinks and ice creams for sale

Enquiries: Andrea Daniel – 6297 5620 or nsjdaniel@hotmail.com

Special guest **Prime Possum**

Braidwood last September. Councilor Marshall noted that without consultation, several hundred properties around Burra, Hoskinstown, Captains Flat and elsewhere were as a result suddenly zoned RU1 prime agriculture. The *Bulletin's* editor commented to councillors that among other problems this is dishonest from a real estate perspective. "Bushland on rocky slopes cannot be sold as general agriculture."

Former E3 areas are now theoretically open to development permitted under RU1 – from tree removal to quarrying to intensive livestock operations to giant wind turbines next door. The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and the Sydney Catchment Authority submitted strong objections to the loss of E3 protection for water catchments and public lands.

Councillors Marshall and Hogarth-Boyd moved to partially reverse the whole-sale deletion of E3. They were outvoted by the rest of council on staff advice that such a move would further delay the LEP. E3 will now be decided under a rural study that Council has committed to for the next 18 months.

— by Maria Taylor

(Full disclosure, Maria Taylor supports use of both E4 and E3 zones, while suggesting NSW planning might have more carefully considered how people interpret the zoning names it developed.)

Letters...

Protest against 'environmental protection' heartfelt

I READ the editorial in the February edition with dismay. The title of the editorial reads "LEP meeting round two: let's move on". In a democratic society, is it kosher for one section of the community to try everything in its power to steam roll anyone with an opposing view?

If 200 submissions have been received, does that not mean the groundswell of concern by ratepayers regarding the imposition of E4 is heartfelt, serious and continuing?

If as you say "several hundred people (...at the last public meeting...) repeated for hours the same message against E4"...would it be possible for some on our Council to take some time to listen seriously to the legitimate concerns of its ratepayers and look for some compromises or consensus, rather than obstruct and deride them in favour of its unwavering line to impose E4 regardless of a democratic process that is telling it that many well-intentioned ratepayers do not agree?

You wrote that you hope "Council will ensure at the 27 February meeting that people do not abuse the democratic process, goodwill and patience of Council and other residents with a repetitive marathon session against E4..."

I don't think I am the only one that read this to mean on the contrary, that you are hoping Council will stifle the democratic process at this public meeting.

I don't believe anyone objects to environmental protection zoning where appropriate, but there are plenty that do object to such 'protection' being implemented carte blanche

over wide areas when in the absence of any professional, independent, scientific data, there is no justification.

— A. Sciannimanica, Bywong.

[Ed note: the E4 zone is not called 'environmental protection'. It's called 'environmental living' a statewide name applicable to rural residential areas in Local Environment Plans (LEPs).]

Kudos to Council staff on LEP and, what majority?

THE product of successive councils over 10 years, the Palerang Local Environment Plan 2013 is a tribute to the efforts of the council's Planning Office staff, the engine room for a process that has required the amalgamation of six LEPs, conducting two public consultation/exhibition processes, reconciling several hundred submissions and supporting councillors in numerous meetings.

The LEP development process is by law a democratic one, as it should be since it is the ratepayers who must live with the plan every day.

The development of the Palerang LEP also showed a dark side to the democratic process, akin to the USA's Tea Party phenomenon, democracy by fear and decibels; misrepresentations of the plain words of the draft plan and hysterical speculation in the media and other forums of a loss of 'rights' and of invasions by 'green' bureaucrats.

Putting flyers in letter boxes making a call to arms in support of "the majority" was the

"leaveusalone" group. It aimed for zoning the Bywong and Wamboin areas R5, which is more geared to residential subdivision, rejecting the 'environmental living' (E4) zone chosen by council as closest to what we have, while accusing councillors of "not listening" by not acceding to their demands.

According to the 2011 Census Wamboin has 1,672 residents in 589 dwellings and Bywong 1,195 in 448 dwellings. The combined population of 2,867, produced 135 [2014] submissions to Council opposing the E4 zoning, 25 of these from Wamboin (from 20 dwellings), and 89 from Bywong (from 70 dwellings).

Nevertheless several

councillors claimed that "it is clear that the majority of Bywong oppose E4".

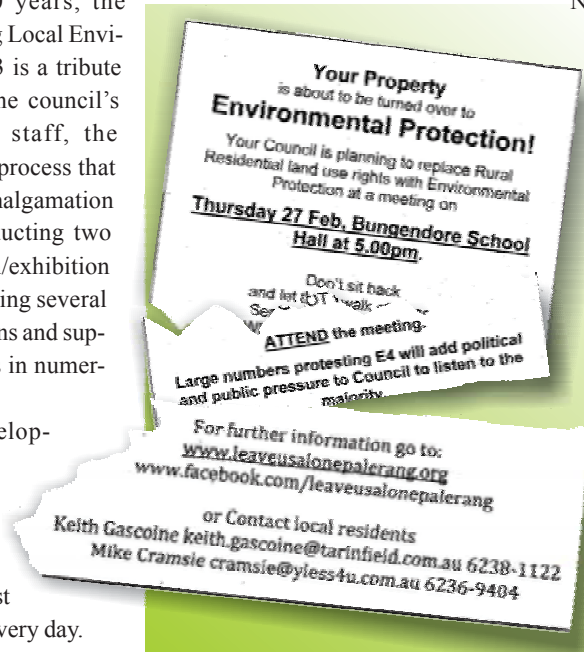
The lesson from this recent experience is clear. We as a community must be vigilant against pressure groups of any kind who seek to press a particular view purporting to speak for the majority of the

community.

Councillors, even when supported by the best of professional advice are not immune to the pressures and demands of such groups and cannot be expected to always act in the interests of our community as a whole.

— Richard Miller, Bywong

February letterbox drop (above): part of a year-long campaign with incorrect information drawing protest against Palerang Council.



ICE CLIMBING From p8

where the pick should go, work out where your toes should go, and then make it work. At the top of the wall, the views were stunning; a landscape of white ice scarred with dark brown, and deep ethereal blue, and rainforests high up the walls of the valley.

On our way back down, we went through an ice cave, a truly magical sight... less magical was the freezing glacier waterfall we found in the middle of it! Crevasses and holes were now opening up everywhere, so the trip down required

more concentration than the trip up.

And at last, muscles aching but minds imprinted with the memories of a lifetime, we arrived back at the township of Fox Glacier. The full-day trip was absolutely exhausting; I went to sleep soon after dinner, and woke up only a short time before lunch the next day.

My tip: stay somewhere with a spa. There was one at my hostel, and taking a soak that evening was probably the second-best decision I'd made all day.

The best, of course, being my decision to climb a glacier. ■

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bar & dining

THE BRAND NEW GEORGE BAR AND RESTAURANT!

Come in & enjoy first class dining in front of a huge open fire. Enjoy our locally produced fresh meats & veg.

Our Bar also stocks some of the finest beers & ciders from around the world.

Treat yourself to our selection of locally produced wines as well as some international flavours.

IRON bar

The Acoustic Sessions
sunday afternoons
every Sunday from 2pm

Fridays	Gigs
HAPPY HOUR 5-7pm	9th Mar – Derryth Nash
Saturdays	16th Mar – Rumshack
Lunch Specials	23rd Mar – Minh Ha
Best Pies in the Universe	30th Mar – TBA
Sundays	
The Acoustic Sessions	

facebook.com/theironbar iron-bar.com.au
202 Goolabri Drive, Sutton, NSW

What's On – March 2014

Send your announcements to whatson@districtbulletin.com.au

During MARCH

Until Sunday 30

Weereewa: A Festival of Lake George

Celebrate the unique landscape and spirit of the Weereewa Lake George region. For more information and program www.weereewafestival.org

Through March and April

Exhibition: Home and Abroad, Ken Tucker

Bungendore Fine Art, Ellendon St, Bungendore. Ph 6238 1640 or see www.bungendorefineart.com.au.

Until Friday 28

Exhibition: The Queanbeyan Age Abstract and Abstraction

Queanbeyan Art Society, Trinculo Pl, www.qarts.com.au.

Wednesdays 12 to 2 April

Music in the Key of Shortis

Ainslie Arts Centre, 7–9pm. A unique take on music presented by John Shortis. \$80/\$70 concession. Bookings essential 6238 1827 moya.john@shortisandsimpson.com.

Friday 7

Queanbeyan Summer Sunset Markets

Crawford St, Queanbeyan, 5–8pm. Fantastic music, great food, art and craft, ceramics, plants, gourmet food items and much more!

GIG GUIDE: March

First Friday of the month: Music and Poetry
Royal Hotel, Bungendore, 7.30pm.

Saturday 8

She is The King (Elvis tribute), The Artists Shed, Qbn, exhibition 4pm, music from 7.30pm.

Sunday 9

The Acoustic Sessions, Derryth Nash, Iron Bar, Goolabri, 2–4pm.

Friday 14

Matt Dent, Lake George Hotel, Bungendore, 9pm.
MLC, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club, 8pm–12am.

Saturday 15

Neilly Rich, The Loaded Dog, Tarago, www.loadeddoghotel.com.

Sunday 16

The Acoustic Sessions, Rumshack, Iron Bar, Goolabri, 2–4pm.

Friday 21

Calum, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club, 8pm–12am.
Hit & Run, Queanbeyan Tigers Club, 8–11.30pm.

Sunday 23

The Acoustic Sessions, Minh Ha, Iron Bar, Goolabri, 2–4pm.

Friday 28

Sax in the City, Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club, 8pm–12am.

Karaoke, Queanbeyan Tigers Club, 8–11.30pm.

Friday 7 and Saturday 8

Charity Bookfair

RB Smith Room, Crawford St, Queanbeyan, Fri 5–8pm, Sat 10–2pm. Thousands of fiction and non-fiction books plus vinyls, CDs, DVDs. For more contact Peter on 6299 9590.

Friday 7 to Saturday 22

Forbidden Broadway

The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Broadway's greatest musical legends meet Broadway's greatest satirist in this hilarious, loving, and endlessly entertaining tribute to some of the theatre's greatest stars and songwriters. For more www.theq.net.au.

Tuesday 11

Ditch the Midriff – Health Coaching

Wamboin Community Hall, 7–8.30pm. Discover the food and lifestyle choices that are best for you. Presented by Linda Ivey, Holistic Health Coach. Cost \$25, bookings essential 0427 338 042 or getfedforlifewithlinda@gmail.com.

Tuesday 11 to Saturday 22

Exhibition: Breathing Easier, Rosemary Benet

The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Local painter Rosemary Benet presents her latest collection of works. For more www.theq.net.au.

Saturday 15

Mysterious Queanbeyan by Moonlight Tour

Join author Nichole Overall for a tour through Queanbeyan's heart as she shares with you some of the fascinating tales of mystery, mayhem, tragedy and the other-worldly that have unfolded over the course of 175 years. Walking tour takes approx 2½ hours, beginning at 7pm. Cost \$55 inc refreshments, conc/group rates available. Bookings essential, email qbn@qbn-cityofchampions.com.au. For more see www.facebook.com/mysteriousqbnbymoonlight.

Sutton Country Fair & Ute Muster

Sutton Public School, 10–2pm. A community day of fun with entertainment, music, games, rides, raffles and prizes. For more <http://suttonps.com.au> or ph Cathy 0427 771 732.

FM104.7 Skyfire 25

Lake Burley Griffin, 6–10pm. The skies above Lake Burley Griffin will explode again with the region's biggest fireworks spectacular set to a killer soundtrack. Plus live entertainment from the Regatta Point Stage. For more www.1047.com.au.

Parting Treats and Tips from the Kitchen

Benedict House, Queanbeyan. Kate Shelton will share recipes and more. Places are limited, bookings essential. \$25pp, ph 6284 2868.

Wednesday 19 to Friday 21

Giorgio Morandi Inspired Painting Workshop

FORM Studio & Gallery, Queanbeyan. Intensive painting workshop led by Claire Primrose. 10–1pm, cost \$150. Bookings essential 0430 359 776 or claire@formstudioandgallery.com.au.

Saturday 22

Liquidfest

Queanbeyan Swimming Pool. All age event, bands, entertainment, etc. 1–6pm, adults \$5, students \$3.

Bywong and Sutton rock tgether

Sutton Village Hall, 7–11pm. The best mix of music benefiting the communities of Bywong and Sutton. Cost \$10pp, \$25 family. BYO plate to share, BYO drinks. Contact beryl.lowry@bigpond.com 6230 3948 or paulinechambers@yahoo.com.au 6236 9934.

Sunday 23

Alpaca and Llama Autumn Open Day

Sutton Rd. Come and meet and learn about alpacas and llamas. Learn to spin alpaca fibre. Free entry. More info www.alpacamagic.com.au or 0422 733 064.

Monday 24

Full TAB Race Meeting

Queanbeyan Racecourse. Enjoy a quality day at the races. Full TAB, bar, tote and bookies available. For more see www.qracing.net.au.

Monday 24 to Thursday 27

Tashi

The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. A theatrical adaptation of Anna and Barbara Feinberg's well-loved children's books brought to life by Imaginary Theatre telling the magical and mysterious adventures of a young migrant boy, Tashi, and his best friend, Jack. For more www.theq.net.au.

Monday 24 to April 14

Exhibition: Frank Thirion and Ros Auld

FORM Studio & Gallery, Queanbeyan. For more www.formstudioandgallery.com.au.

Friday 28 to April 5

They're Playing Our Song

The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. In a story based on the real-life relationship of composer Marvin Hamlisch and lyricist Carole Bayer-Sager, a wisecracking composer finds a new, offbeat lyricist. For more www.theq.net.au.

Friday 28 until April 12

Exhibition: In the Garden, Beth Miller and Wilma Cawley

The Q, Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Textile artists Beth Miller and Wilma Cawley present their latest body of work inspired by the garden. For more www.theq.net.au.

Saturday 29

Queanbeyan Public School 150th Birthday Fete

Isabella St, Queanbeyan, 10–2pm. Celebrating the school and the community over the past 150 years.

Mad March

the market @ bungendore

Sunday March 16th 9am–3pm
at the War Memorial Hall

All your favourite stalls
Come along for a browse
Enjoy a variety of refreshments

jewellery	mosaics
giftware	homewares
soaps & lotions	greeting cards
local art & craft	beads & findings
garden products	pottery & ceramics
toys & models	local grown plants
cakes & pastries	prints & paintings
tea & fresh coffee	fruit & vegetables
guitars & amps	clothing & footwear

Sunday 30

Bywong Community Car Boot Sale

Les Reardon Reserve, 9–1pm. Over 100 stalls, money raised for the Fire Brigade. For more ph Greg 6236 9841 or bywongbootsale@y7mail.com.

The Queanbeyan Pipes and Drums Ceilidh

Queanbeyan Bicentennial Conference Centre, 11–4pm. Pipe bands, Scottish dancers, a Celtic choir, singers, fiddlers, bush poetry and more.

In APRIL 2014

Tuesday 1

Southern Region BEC Business Networking Breakfast

Airport International Motel, Queanbeyan. Guest speaker Nigel Collin.

Sunday 6

Queanbeyan Leagues Club Exhibition/Competition
Queanbeyan Art Society, Trinculo Pl. Entry forms available at www.qarts.com.au.

An Invitation from Kate

Benedict House, Queanbeyan. You are invited to an afternoon soiree to celebrate the last era at Benedict House. 3pm, \$20, bookings essential 6284 2868.

EVERY MONTH:

Every Saturday

Capital Region Farmers Market

EPIC grounds, Mitchell, 8–11am. A genuine farmers market offering a diverse range of fresh seasonal food straight from the producer to the consumer and an opportunity to discuss with growers. www.capitalregionfarmersmarket.com.au

1st Saturday of every month
(except January)

The Captains Flat Country Markets

Community Hall, Foxlow St, Captains Flat, 10–2pm. Handmade items, craft, jams, pickles, gourmet doggy treats, preloved goods, cakes, biscuits, plants and much more! Stalls \$12. Call either 0438 600 447 or 0407 661 834 or email markets@captainsflat.org.

2nd Sunday of the month
(except Jan)

Queanbeyan Cottage Markets

Queanbeyan River, on the corner of Morrisett and Collett Streets, 9–2pm. Craft, timber products, pottery, leatherwork, jewellery, toys, honey, jams, chutney, cakes, plants, food and refreshments. Call Kristen 6299 0219.

3rd Saturday of every month
(except July/August)

Wamboin Produce Market

Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin, 9–12 noon. Fresh produce including cheese, eggs, honey, vegetables, nuts, seeds and plants.

3rd Sunday every month

Bungendore Markets

War Memorial Hall, Molonglo St, Bungendore, 9–2pm. Art, craft and local produce.

Windy Hall Country Markets

Windellama Hall, 10–2pm, craft goods, Devonshire tea, deli delights and more. For more contact Bob Shaw on 4844 5001.

4th Saturday of every month

Braidwood Markets

Ryrie Park, Wallace St, Braidwood, 8am. Local crafts and cooking, plant and natural products. Call Geraldine 4847 5061.

More on regional and local events and local tourist attractions:

www.bungendore.com.au

www.visitqueanbeyan.com.au

www.visitbraidwood.com.au

Come along to the region's only twilight markets!

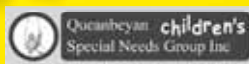


**1st & 3rd
Fridays
5–8pm**

A welcoming village atmosphere is created right in the centre of Queanbeyan with live music, great food and a range of market stalls selling products by local artists and crafts people, gourmet foods and much more!

In the courtyard at **253 Crawford Street**
adjacent to
Council Chambers

The focus is on
high quality local handmade arts
and crafts, local produce and food suppliers as
well as local entertainment to enjoy as the sun goes down.



For more information:
cultural.services@qcc.nsw.gov.au
or phone 6285 6170